

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 524
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of W. Marion Palmer of
Johnson City.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember one of the outstanding men in the history of the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is not often that a state or community is blessed with such a distinguished citizen as Mr. Palmer, who passed from our midst in February of 1990; and

WHEREAS, as a business entrepreneur, familiar figure in upstate politics, and courageous civic leader, Mr. Palmer's memory lives on in the hearts and minds of Upper East Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer began his meritorious life in Kingsport, Tennessee, the son of the late Thomas J. and Lillie Fuller Palmer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer served valiantly with the U.S. Air Force Air Transport Command in India during World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the U.S. and to his hometown of Kingsport, Mr. Palmer gave wings to his entrepreneurial spirit; he owned and operated a number of businesses, including ventures in real estate, land development, home design, speculative home building, apartments, commercial rental property, nursing homes and cable television systems; and

WHEREAS, living the last 18 years of his exemplary life in Johnson City, Mr. Palmer was owner and operator of Palmer Enterprises and Hancock Manor Nursing Home; he was a general partner in Eastern Supplies, Inc., and before his death, he bought a majority interest in a satellite television shopping network; and

WHEREAS, always interested in political affairs both in East Tennessee and throughout the state, Mr. Palmer was a long time member of the Washington County Democratic Executive Committee, served as executive director of the Democratic Party in Washington County from 1973 until 1976, and represented our state as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of professional responsibility, Mr. Palmer served as president of the Home Builders Association of the Tri-Cities, vice-president of the Tennessee Home Builders Association, and as a director of the National Association of Home Builders; Mr. Palmer also gave unreservedly of his time and talents as president of the Tennessee Cable TV Association and as a director of the Southern Cable TV Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer's service to the community was truly praiseworthy; he was a long-time member and former director of the Johnson City Kiwanis Club and served as a director and a member of the legislative committee for the Johnson City Area Chamber of Commerce; he was a dedicated member of the B.P.O. Elks, the Charles DeWitt Byrd Post No. 3382 of the VFW, the Hammond Post No. 3 of the American Legion and the Colonial Heights Eagles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palmer was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church of Kingsport, where he evinced his strong faith in the Lord; and

WHEREAS, for many years Mr. Palmer enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mrs. June Bledsoe Palmer; he was the proud parent of Ms. Sandra L. Palmer of Sneedville and Ms. Suzanne M. Palmer of Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Mr. Palmer leaves behind as an astute businessman, devoted family man and tireless public servant will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,
That we honor the memory of W. Marion Palmer, remembering with admiration his exemplary
character and many selfless contributions to the Tri-Cities community and our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.